GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:255
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2004
REVISION OF IMPORT DUTY
Nambadan Shri Lonappan;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has announced new rates for levy of import duty on edible oils including coconut oil;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, edible oil-wise;

(c) the criteria fixed for announcing new rates for levying import duty on edible oil; and

(d) steps taken by the government to safeguard the economy of various States from the likely adverse effects of import duty on edible oil?

Answer

MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM)

(a), (b), (c) and (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (At (B). (C) AND CD) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 255 FOR 17.12.2004 REGARDING REVISION OF IMPORT DUTY RAISED BY SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH AND LONAPPAN NAMBADAN.

(a) No, Sir. The Government has not announced any new rates of levy of import duty on edible oils including coconut oil recently. However, customs duty on palm oils other than crude palm oil was increased from 70% to 75% in the Union Budget announced on 8th July, 2004. Similarly, tariff values for levy of import duty on edible oils have been revised downwards vide Notification no.l05/2004-Cus.(N.T), dated 15th September 2004, in view of fall in international prices.

(b) & (c) The revised rates of Tariff Value issued vide Notification No.105/2004-Cus.(N.T), dated 15th September 2004, is as under:

(i) Crude Palm Oil 454 US$ PMT

(ii) RBD Palm Oil 489 US$ PMT

(iii) Others - Palm Oil 471 US$ PMT

(iv) Crude Palmolein 479 US$ PMT

(v) RBD Palmolein 497 US$ PMT

(vi) Others - Palmolein 488 US$ PMT

(vii) Crude Soyabean Oil 565 US$ PMT

The Tariff Value is in line with the international prices` of these oils. The criteria adopted for changes in Tariff Value is that whenever there is a deviation of more than 10% of the fixed Tariff Value, necessary changes are effected.

(d) Import duty/countervailing duty are levied to protect domestic industries in various states.